

## Message Text

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FM USMISSION OECD PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASH DC 8633

INFO USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EGEN, OECD

SUBJECT: OECD ROLE IN DIALOGUE

REF: OECD 24479

1. BEGIN SUMMARY: THE OECD HAS BEEN CHARGED WITH MAJOR BUT STILL INCOMPLETELY DEFINED RESPONSIBILITIES IN BACKSTOPPING DEVELOPED COUNTRY PARTICIPATION IN NORTH/SOUTH DIALOGUE. WE HAVE BEEN EXAMINING INTENSIVELY WITHIN THE MISSION HOW OECD CAN BEST BE USED TO ACHIEVE US OBJECTIVES IN THIS NEW PHASE. OECD SECGEN VAN LENNEP AND HIS TOP STAFF HAVE BEEN CONSIDERING THE PROCEDURAL ISSUES RELATING TO THE USE OF OECD, AS HAVE OTHER MEMBER GOVERNMENTS. A SECOND DISCUSSION OF THESE MATTERS WILL BE HELD BY OECD HEADS OF DEL ON OCTOBER 7 (THE FIRST ONE WAS HELD SEPTEMBER 18; SEE REFTEL) AND THE DEPARTMENT'S GUIDANCE WILL BE NEEDED.

2. VAN LENNEP'S CURRENT VIEWS OF PROCEDURAL ASPECTS OF THE DIALOGUE REFLECT CONSIDERABLE EVOLUTION IN HIS CONFIDENTIAL

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THINKING. HE DOES NOT BELIEVE IT NECESSARY TO ENDOW

ANY SPECIFIC BODY WITH AN OVERALL COORDINATING ROLE. IN HIS VIEW, MAIN ACTION SHOULD BE IN THE FOUR BACK-STANDING GROUPS FOR THE COMMISSIONS WHICH SHOULD BEGIN TO COME TO GRIPS WITH THEIR SUBSTANTIVE WORK. XCSS SHOULD HAVE A MAJOR SUBSTANTIVE ROLE WITH REGARD TO THE WORK OF THE COMMISSIONS ON DEVELOPMENT, COMMODITIES AND FINANCIAL MATTERS. VAN LENNEP BELIEVES THAT QUESTIONS OF INTERRELATIONSHIPS AMONG THE WORK OF THE FOUR COMMISSIONS CAN BE DEALT WITH INFORMALLY, INCLUDING IN AN INFORMAL GROUP ASSOCIATED WITH XCSS. WE AGREE AND BELIEVE IT IMPORTANT TO GIVE GREATER IMPETUS TO THE WORK OF THE BACK-STANDING GROUPS AND SEIZE THEM WITH THE FULL PANOPLY OF US PROPOSALS TO ASSURE THAT THE US WILL DOMINATE PREPARATION FOR THE DIALOGUE. DETAILS OF VAN LENNEP'S THINKING AND OUR OWN RECOMMENDATIONS FOLLOW. END SUMMARY.

3. VAN LENNEP'S VIEWS

SECGEN VAN LENNEP REGARDS THE DIALOGUE AS A MAJOR CHALLENGE AND OPPORTUNITY FOR OECD. HIS NATURAL BUREAUCRATIC INSTINCTS ARE TO ASSERT THE WIDEST POSSIBLE ROLE FOR OECD. HOWEVER, HE HAS COME TO REALIZE THE POLITICAL FACTS OF LIFE IN THINKING THROUGH THE PROBLEM.

4. THROUGH THE PREPCON

(A) PROCEDURAL ISSUES

THE MAIN ACTION ON THE PROCEDURAL SIDE MUST REMAIN BILATERAL, IN BRUSSELS AND IN IEA, WITH OECD AS AN ORGANIZATION, IN VAN LENNEP'S VIEW, HAVING LITTLE TO CONTRIBUTE.

(B) INFORMATION EXCHANGE

THE OECD HEADS OF DEL MIGHT BE USED TO PROVIDE INFORMATION ON THE PREPCON TO COUNTRIES NEITHER IN IEA NOR THE PREPCON.

5. BETWEEN THE PREPCON AND THE MINISTERIAL

(A) DECISION ON COUNTRY PARTICIPATION

VAN LENNEP BELIEVES THERE MAY BE A ROLE FOR THE OECD IN PROVIDING A FRAMEWORK IN WHICH OECD GOVERNMENTS

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COULD REACH FINAL AGREEMENT ON DC PARTICIPATION. IN HIS VIEW, THIS DECISION PROBABLY SHOULD BE REACHED IN THE HEADS OF DEL AND NOT IN ANY FORMAL OECD BODY SUBJECT TO THE UNANIMITY RULE. HE IS VERY MUCH AWARE THAT THE REAL CHOICE WILL BE MADE IN THE COURSE OF INFORMAL CONTACTS AMONG GOVERNMENTS.

(B) PREPARATIONS FOR DIALOGUE

IMMEDIATELY AFTER PREPCON HE BELIEVES OECD COUNTRIES SHOULD TRY TO REACH SOME UNDERSTANDING AS TO THEIR GOALS FOR THE DIALOGUE AND SOME COMMON VIEW ON HOW THE COMMISSIONS SHOULD WORK. VAN LENNEP RECOGNIZES THAT IEA IS ALREADY ATTEMPTING TO DEFINE GOALS FOR THE ENERGY COMMISSION. HE SUGGESTS THAT THE XCSS MEETING OF OCTOBER 21-22 SHOULD DIRECT THE TWO HLGS ON NORTH/SOUTH RELATIONS AND COMMODITIES AND POSSIBLY THE TEMPORARY

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WORKING PARTY ON FINANCIAL QUESTIONS TO BEGIN TO COME TO GRIPS WITH THE WORK OF THE OTHER COMMISSIONS. HE BELIEVES THEY SHOULD BE INSTRUCTED TO COME UP WITH GENERAL POLICY PAPERS ON ISSUES LIKELY TO ARISE IN THE RESPECTIVE COMMISSIONS, PERHAPS IN FORM OF BRIEFS. VAN LENNEP FEELS STRONGLY THAT THE PERFORMANCE OF OECD MEMBER COUNTRY REPS IN THE COMMISSIONS WOULD BE MORE EFFECTIVE IF THEY WORKED ON THE BASIS OF POSITIONS DISCUSSED AND HARMONIZED IN OECD. HE FEELS IT ESSENTIAL

TO ENVELOP THE PROCESS OF EC COORDINATION IN BROADER  
PROCESS OF HARMONIZING OECD-WIDE POSITIONS.

VAN LENNEP BELIEVES THE ALGERIANS MAY RAISE THE  
ISSUE OF TERMS OF REFERENCE OF THE COMMISSIONS AT THE  
PREPCON. LEAVING ASIDE ENERGY, HE SAYS THAT THERE ARE  
SENSITIVE ISSUES AS TO OVERLAPPING FUNCTIONS AMONG THE  
OTHER THREE COMMISSIONS AND THE XCSS MIGHT BE A USEFUL  
FORUM FOR REVIEWING THIS MATTER. IN THIS CONNECTION,  
THE VAN YPERSELE GROUP'S MANDATE, IN HIS OPINION, SHOULD  
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BE BROADENED TO INCLUDE THE FINANCIAL ASPECTS OF  
DIALOGUE-RELATED ISSUES.

6. AFTER MINISTERIAL MEETING

(A) COORDINATION OF COUNTRY POSITIONS AND WORK OF  
THREE NON-ENERGY COMMISSIONS  
EXPLICITLY SETTING ASIDE ENERGY, VAN LENNEP SEES  
THE TASK OF COORDINATION AFTER THE MINISTERIAL AS TWO-  
FOLD. THE FIRST AND MORE IMMEDIATE TASK WILL BE  
COORDINATING POSITIONS OF MEMBER GOVERNMENTS. THE  
OTHER TASK WHICH HE CONSIDERS SOMEWHAT LESS URGENT IS  
COORDINATING THE WORK OF THE THREE COMMISSIONS WHICH  
MAY OVERLAP AND DEVELOP INCONSISTENCIES. THE FIRST  
TASK WILL MAINLY TAKE PLACE IN THE THREE SPECIAL GROUPS.  
AS FOR THE TASK OF COORDINATING THE WORK OF THE  
COMMISSIONS HE SEES SEVERAL POSSIBILITIES. THE MOST  
INFORMAL TECHNIQUE WOULD BE PERIODIC MEETINGS OF THE  
OECD GROUP CHAIARMEN AND HE HAS ALREADY BROUGHT THEM  
TOGETHER ONCE. HE RECOGNIZES THE LIMITATIONS OF THIS  
TECHNIQUE GIVEN THE FACT THAT THE US AND SOME OF THE  
OTHER MAIN COUNTRIES WOULD NOT BE REPRESENTED. ANOTHER  
TECHNIQUE WOULD BE TO INVITE THE CHAIARMEN TO ATTEND  
XCSS OR BETTER YET AN INFORMAL "BUREAU" OF XCSS,  
AND HAVE THAT BODY DISCUSS ANY PROBLEMS OF OVERLAP.  
HE SAYS JOLLES INTENDS AT THE NEXT XCSS MEETING, PERHAPS  
IN A RESTRICTED HEADS OF DEL SESSION, TO RAISE THE  
PROBLEM OF HOW XCSS ITSELF CAN BEST ORGANIZE TO EXER-  
CISE A COORDINATING ROLE. JOLLES IS THINKING OF SETTING  
UP SOME SORT OF STEERING OR LEADERSHIP GROUP THAT CAN  
MEET MORE FREQUENTLY THAN THE FULL XCSS. VAN LENNEP  
SHARES OUR VIEW THAT SETTING UP A RESTRICTED BODY IN  
XCSS MIGHT BEST BE DONE INFORMALLY, LEST IT RISK BEING  
VETOED BY THOSE EXCLUDED.

(B) FREQUENCY OF MEETINGS AND EXCHANGE OF  
INFORMATION

VAN LENNEP BELIEVES THAT AFTER THE MINISTERIAL  
MEETING THE DIALOGUE MAY REQUIRE MORE FREQUENT AND

MORE ACTIVE MEETINGS OF THE VARIOUS BACK-STOPPING GROUPS,  
AND POSSIBLY FREQUENT MEETINGS OF AN INFORMAL COORDIN-  
ATING MECHANISM. AS MENTIONED ABOVE, IT MAY BE  
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ADVISABLE TO TRANSMIT INFORMATION ON DEVELOPMENTS IN  
THE DIALOGUE TO NON-PARTICIPATING COUNTRIES AT TIMES  
WHEN THE APPROPRIATE PLENARY GROUP MAY NOT BE  
SCHEDULED TO MEET. HE BELIEVES IT WOULD BE USEFUL TO  
USE THE OECD HEADS OF DEL FOR SUCH INFORMATION EXCHANGES  
AND ALLEGES THIS AS ONE REASON FOR FAVORING PARIS AS  
THE SITE OF THE COMMISSIONS.

7. RELATIONSHIP OF ENERGY TO OTHER ASPECTS OF DIALOGUE

(A) LINKAGE PROBLEM

VAN LENNEP RECOGNIZES THE SENSITIVITY OF THIS ISSUE.  
HE ACKNOWLEDGES THAT ENERGY IS THE CENTERPIECE OF THE  
DIALOGUE, THAT THE IEA THEREFORE HAS SPECIAL RESPONSI-  
BILITIES AND THAT THIS RAISES THE FRENCH PROBLEM. HE  
WOULD PREFER TO PUT OFF DISCUSSION OF THE PROCEDURAL  
ISSUE OF WHERE THE OVERALL STRATEGY OF THE DIALOGUE OR  
A SO-CALLED PACKAGE APPROACH COULD BE TAKEN UP SINCE  
IT WOULD BE

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DANGEROUS TO TRY TO DECIDE AT THIS TIME IN VACUO WHETHER ENERGY SHOULD BE ENCOMPASSED BY XCSS TOGETHER WITH THE OTHER PARTS OF THE DIALOGUE OR WHETHER IEA SHOULD CONTROL THE STRATEGY OF ALL PARTS OF THE DIALOGUE. THIS IS A PROBLEM WHICH NEED NOT BE FACED NOW, HE FEELS, BECAUSE LINKAGE IS NOT A PRESSING ISSUE. A PACKAGE APPROACH WILL ONLY BE DEVELOPED AT A LATER STAGE IF AT ALL. THERE ARE SOME ISSUES WHICH DO CUT ACROSS THE WORK OF ALL FOUR COMMISSIONS, E.G. THE INDEXATION PROBLEM, BUT INFORMAL CHANNELS CAN BE USED TO DEAL WITH THESE MATTERS. ONE OF THESE CHANNELS MIGHT BE THE INFORMAL GROUP OF XCSS REFERRED TO ABOVE.

(B) COMPOSITION OF INFORMAL XCSS GROUP

WE HELD A BRIEF DISCUSSION OF WHAT SORT OF INFORMAL GROUP COULD BE BUILT. VAN LENNEP DOES NOT BELIEVE IT REALISTIC TO THINK THAT THE EC COULD BE REPRESENTED BY ONE SPOKESMAN. IF SO, WOULD IT BE EC COMMISSION OR AN ITALIAN AS REPRESENTATIVE OF THE EC PRESIDENCY (NEXT

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YEAR THE LUXEMBOURGER)? HE BELIEVES THAT IN ADDITION TO THE U.S. AND JAPAN, THE BIG THREE EUROPEAN COUNTRIES SHOULD BE REPRESENTED, AS SHOULD THE COMMISSION (PREFERABLY WELLENSTEIN) AS WELL AS THE MAIN COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN, DAVIGNON, PRESTON, ROBERT, JOLLES AND VAN YPERSELE. ROBERT CAN ALSO SPEAK FOR THE FRG BUT PRESTON, ALTHOUGH QUITE COMPETENT, DOES NOT SPEAK FOR THE FOREIGN OFFICE WHICH IS CONCERNED WITH THE DIALOGUE.

8. MISSION RECOMMENDATIONS

OUR OWN RECOMMENDATIONS, TAKING INTO ACCOUNT VAN LENNEP'S, FOLLOW:

-- THE HLG'S ON NORTH/SOUTH RELATIONS AND COMMODITIES SHOULD TRY TO PREPARE SUBSTANTIVE POSITIONS FOR USE IN THE DEVELOPMENT AND COMMODITY COMMISSIONS.

-- THE COUNCIL SHOULD BE ASKED TO ENLARGE THE MAN-  
DATE OF THE VAN YPERSELE GROUP (TEMPORARY WORKING  
PARTY) TO COVER DIALOGUE-RELATED FINANCIAL ISSUES TO

COME UP IN THE FINANCIAL COMMISSION, AND BE PLACED  
UNDER THE POLICY-GUIDANCE OF XCSS ON THESE QUESTIONS.  
(THE PARSKY GROUP SHOULD CONTINUE TO DEVELOP IEA  
POSITIONS ON ENERGY-RELATED FINANCIAL ISSUES AND  
MAINTAIN INFORMAL CONTACT WITH TWP.)

-- XCSS SHOULD BE USED AS A FORUM TO HELP DEVELOP A  
COMMON UNDERSTANDING OF OVERALL OBJECTIVES OF DIA-  
LOGUE, TO LAY OUT SPECIFIC TASKS FOR THE DEVELOPMENT,  
COMMODITY, AND FINANCIAL GROUPS IN PREPARING FOR  
WORK IN THE THREE NON-ENERGY COMMISSIONS AND TO  
RESOLVE SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES ARISING IN THE  
COURSE OF THE WORK. IN THIS CONNECTION IT MIGHT ALSO  
UNDERTAKE TO DEVELOP AN OECD POSITION ON THE TERMS  
OF REFERENCE OF THE THREE COMMISSIONS.

-- IEA SHOULD CONTINUE PREPARING FOR THE ENERGY  
COMMISSION. WE SHOULD USE IEA FORUM TO EXTENT  
POSSIBLE TO DEVELOP AN INFORMAL CONSENSUS ON IMMEDI-  
ATE PROCEDURAL ISSUES AND OVERALL STRATEGY (TO EXTENT  
NEEDED AT THIS STAGE) BEFORE EC-9 POSITIONS ARE  
FIXED AND BEFORE ANY OF THESE ISSUES COME UP IN AN  
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OECD-WIDE FORUM.

-- WE SHOULD RELY ON INFORMAL MEANS FOR ASSURING

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OVERALL COORDINATION OF DIALOGUE AT THIS STAGE, INCLUDING A RESTRUCTURED XCSS INFORMAL GROUP, INCLUDING KEY COUNTRIES, EC COMMISSION AND APPROPRIATE COMMITTEE CHARMEN. THE COMPOSITION OF THIS GROUP NEEDS FURTHER THOUGHT AND CONSULTATION WITH JOLLES AND VAN LENNEP.

-- OECD HEADS OF DEL SHOULD BE USED FOR BRIEFING AND EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION ON PROGRESS OF DIALOGUE AND FOR RUBBER-STAMPING APPROPRIATE PROCEDURAL DECISIONS SUCH AS DC REPRESENTATION.

9. CONCLUSION

THUS FAR, THE US HAS DOMINATED THE PREPARATORY STAGES OF THE DIALOGUE BY THE EXCELLENCE AND COMPREHENSIVENESS OF ITS POSITIONS, BY GOOD WORK IN CAPITALS AND BY CONSULTATIONS WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF COMMITMENT TO A COMMON POSITION IN IEA. THE BROADENING OF THE DIALOGUE NECESSARILY ENTAILS DEVELOPING EFFECTIVE

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MECHANISMS TO BACKSTOP THE NON-ENERGY AREAS. IT WILL BE TO THE US ADVANTAGE TO SEEK TO USE THE OECD-WIDE XCSS AND THE NORTH/SOUTH, COMMODITY AND FINANCIAL GROUPS AS INTENSIVELY AS POSSIBLE BY EARLY SUBMISSION OF CONCRETE PROPOSALS AND INSISTING ON A STEPPED-UP MEETING SCHEDULE TO TRY TO HAMMER OUT COORDINATED POSITIONS. THE FIRST CRITICAL TEST WILL BE THE OCTOBER 21-22 MEETING OF THE XCSS, A BODY WHOSE POTENTIAL IS STILL UNREALIZED. IT WOULD BE HELPFUL TO HAVE THE GROUND FOR THIS MEETING LAID AS THOROUGHLY AND EARLY AS POSSIBLE WITH JOLLES, THE SECRETARIAT AND IN KEY CAPITALS TO ASSURE A USEFUL, SUBSTANTIVE DISCUSSION AND OUTCOME.

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